



U.S. Department of the Interior Invasive Species Update

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ISAC Meeting, Beltsville, MD
October 28-30, 2015





Department-wide Initiatives

- **National Invasive Species Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Framework**
 - Facilitated Federal Work Group, Advisory Team, and Tribal Consultation meetings
 - Developed and vetted report components with various audiences
 - Prepared draft report and circulated for informal agency review
 - Finalizing report for submission
- **DOI Invasive Species Action Plan**
 - Established DOI Invasive Species Task Force and Charter
 - Finalized Implementation Strategy and Operations Plan
 - Formed ad hoc work groups
 - Departmental Policy
 - Information Management
 - Performance Metrics
 - EDRR



Department-wide Initiatives

- **National Invasive Species Council**
 - Led hiring process for Executive Director with support from other NISC members
- **Federal Lands Policy Options Paper for Addressing the Movement of Aquatic Invasive Species onto and off of Federal Lands**
 - Co-led with NISC and USFWS
 - Facilitated review, incorporated comments, and finalized August 28, 2015
- **Secretarial Order 3336: Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management and Restoration**
 - Implementing a range of activities within one of the key strategies: *Large scale Activities to Remove Invasive Non-native Grasses* (various leads)
- **Arctic Invasive Species Strategy**
 - Co-led by Department of State and NISC
 - Serving on Arctic Interagency Invasive Species Work Group to advance joint Arctic invasive species strategy (Kingdom of Norway / United States)
- **U.S. Government Accountability Office Aquatic Invasive Species Review**
 - Reviewed draft reports and provided technical comments



DOI Bureau Updates



Bureau of Indian Affairs

- The Miccosukee Tribe (FL) is creating a genetic library for gastric analysis to establish food chain relationships of exotic/native fish. This study will inform a tool for science based management decisions about best timing to control/remove predatory fish.
- The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma removed over 600 feral hogs from their Reservation since November 2014. Feral hogs negatively impact water quality, wildlife, cattle grazing, agriculture, and urban landscaping.



Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- Funding a study in the Gulf of Mexico:
 - "Genetic Affinities in Populations of the Invasive Indo-Pacific Coral *Tubastraea micranthus* on northern Gulf of Mexico Platforms: Multiple Invasions?"
- The study will highlight the genetic differences between sample locations.
- Potential future studies could further investigate the samples collected using individual colony genetic sequencing and microsatellite markers for a more comprehensive understanding of this species and potentially different populations.



DOI Bureau Updates cont.

Bureau of Land Management



- Revised BLM policy and program direction that now provides BLM policy specifically addressing AIS (Manual Section 6720-Aquatic Resources) .
- Continuing to work with Wildlife Forever to publish invasive species awareness information in sportsman and outdoor magazines and fishing regulations in western states, reaching over 5 million sportsmen annually.
- Placing Research and Demonstration plots this fall using the biopesticide D-7 to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive grasses.
- Releasing Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Vegetation Treatments Using Aminopyralid, Fluroxypyr, and Rimsulfuron on BLM lands in 17 Western States <http://blm.gov/3vkd>.
- Completing a Memorandum of Understanding for Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket control with APHIS and one with Edison Electric Institute for vegetation control along electric utility corridors.
- Working with partners to test an external web portal for the National Invasive Species Information Management System (NISIMS), so that the BLM can receive inventory, pesticide use proposals, and treatment data directly from external users and BLM partners.



DOI Bureau Updates cont.



Bureau of Reclamation

- Conducts zebra/quagga mussel detection and monitoring, control research, and evaluates efficacy of control methods
- Researches & develops effective techniques to control invasive species on Reclamation facilities
- Implements integrated pest management (IPM) to manage invasive species including chemical, mechanical, biological, and environmental control methods.
 - Authored several chapters in the Biology and Management of Invasive Quagga and Zebra Mussels in the Western United States, Eds. Wai Hing Wong and Shawn L. Gerstenberger, CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, Boca Raton, FL. 2015.
 - Updating IPM plans
 - Control efforts underway for Giant Salvinia and *Arundo donax*
- Participates in regional stakeholder committees & task forces to partner capabilities and leverage efforts to control invasive species including national and local groups such as Western Regional Panel, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, AZ Quagga Mussel task force, DOI, etc.
- Participates in public outreach events to increase public awareness and education with regards to invasive species and spread prevention actions.



DOI Bureau Updates cont.

National Park Service



- The NPS Invasive Plant Program Draft Strategic Plan is in the final stages of completion.
- NPS Invasive Plant Program staff is preparing to incrementally roll out the National Invasive Species Information Management System (NISIMS, developed by BLM) to the parks.

Office of Insular Affairs



- OIA is strengthening its organizational capacity to improve its invasive species coordination and funding efforts with the insular areas, including improved outreach to and capacity building within the land and natural resources programs of each insular area government.



DOI Bureau Updates cont.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Co-chairs and administers the ANS Task Force (May 2015 meeting held; Nov 2015 planned)
- Executive Secretary vacancy expected to be filled in November 2015
- Approx. \$1 million in 2015 provided to 42 State/Interstate Plans
- Approved Quagga Zebra Mussel Action Plan (QZAP) for another 5 years
- \$940K allocated to partners for QZAP implementation
- Approved Snakehead and Lionfish National Management Plans
- Funded a Technical Information Report by the American Boat and Yacht Council on boat design and construction in consideration of AIS
- SAH! ProtectYourWaters.net website and campaign update
- Updating and modernizing Habitattitude website under DOI/PIJAC MOU



DOI Bureau Updates cont.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service con't

Injurious Wildlife Lacey Act updates:



- Categorical Exclusion under NEPA approved by CEQ. Final notice expected end of October.
- Evaluating which species of salamanders to list as injurious because of risk of Bsal introduction. FWS expects to complete and publish its evaluation this Fall.
- Proposed rule expected October 2015 for 11 high risk species.
- Large constrictor snake litigation: U.S. District Court issued PI finding plaintiffs were likely to prevail on merits of the case that the FWS lacks authority to prohibit interstate transport of species listed as injurious. DOJ's decision to appeal is pending.



DOI Bureau Updates cont.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service con't - Refuges



- In FY16, awarded the annual \$1 million Refuge System Large Invasive Species Allocation to Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge to eradicate invasive black rats (*Rattus rattus*) from the Refuge, a native atoll ecosystem which includes several threatened and endangered species.
- In April 2015, USFWS Director Dan Ashe signed a National Memorandum of Understanding with Island Conservation to enhance our current relationship to remove invasive species from islands and restore native species.
- In July 2015 the USFWS signed on as a National partner to the "PlayCleanGo: stop invasive species in your tracks" invasive species prevention campaign.



DOI Bureau Updates cont.

U.S. Geological Survey



- Co-hosting with NatureServe a 100-person, 3-day workshop funded by NSF, "Promoting Synergy in the Innovative Use of Environmental Data," on Dec. 2-4, 2015, in DC
 - » Discussions will focus on how to build a dynamic biodiversity map of the nation, to include invasive species' status and potential threats to natural systems and native species.
 - » Because space is limited, workshop attendance is by invitation only but open to federal employees, academia, and private industry. Contact annie_simpson@usgs.gov for details and an invitation.



- Held extended planning meeting on Oct-07
 - USGS and FHWA co-chair
- 16 participants from 12 Federal agencies
 - will meet again 1st week in November
- Top FY16 priorities include
 - determining ways to better support NISC and ISAC
 - developing EDRR, sage grouse, and biofuels, as web site 'hot topics'

Submitted courtesy Annie Simpson, USGS, FICMNEW Co-Chair



Recommendations & Action Items to DOI from ISAC May 2015

- Recommendation
 - *Early Detection and Rapid Response*: ISAC recommends that the NISC member agencies develop the early detection and rapid response framework and emergency funding plan called for in the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience and Natural Resources Working Group's Priority Agenda: Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources (October 2014); and, that they seek the involvement and advice of non-federal stakeholders, subject matter experts, tribal, state, and local government representatives who will be critical partners in the successful implementation of this framework and fund.
- Action Items
 - *Section 7*: Request NISC staff to liaise with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to identify and resolve issues that impede the timely and successful completion of Section 7 consultations under the Endangered Species Act for biological control agents.
 - *Awareness Campaigns*: Request NISC, for our next meeting, to provide summary reports on current regional and national invasive species outreach campaigns conducted by agencies, including, if available: (1) estimated funding, (2) target audiences, (3) scope, (4) and their effectiveness and evaluation metrics used.
- Other
 - *Systematics*: Request that DOI hold a preliminary conversation about DOI's systematics capability and capacity.

Please see supporting documentation for DOI responses.



Questions

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BOEM
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT



USGS
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